

Message Text

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62

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-11 ISO-00 OIC-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 DHA-02 BIB-01 OMB-01 AID-05

ORM-02 /094 W

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R 051439Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6007

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL ANTWERP

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRUSSELS 1206

DEPT PASS BAGHDAD; FRANKFURT FOR INS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, PINS, PINR, OCON, BE

SUBJECT: SECOND WORLD CONFERENCE OF INTERNATIONAL JEWISH
COMMUNITIES FOR SOVIET JEWS, BRUSSELS, FEB. 17-19,
1976

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REF: BRUSSELS 1088 (NOTAL)

1. BACKGROUND. PREVIOUS EMBASSY REPORTING (NOTAL) PROVIDED INFO ON GOALS AND POSSIBLE PARTICIPANTS OF SUBJECT CONFERENCE WHICH IS ATTEMPT BY ORGANIZERS TO BRING PRESSURE ON SOVIET AUTHORITIES TO PERMIT: (A) MORE LIBERAL EMIGRATION, AND (B) GREATER CULTURAL FREEDOM WITHIN THE USSR. CONFERENCE IS EXPECTED TO DRAW 1100 DELEGATES FROM 50 COUNTRIES, INCLUDING 400 FROM U.S. REFTEL REPORTED SOVIET, NORTH YEMENI AND IRAKI PROTESTS TO BELGIAN GOVERNMENT OVER HOLDING OF CONFERENCE IN BELGIUM. IN TAKING LEAD IN PROTESTS IRAK TOLD BELGIAN GOVERNMENT IT VIEWED BELGIAN GOVERNMENT AGREEMENT TO PERMIT CONFERENCE "A HOSTILE ACT AGAINST ARAB STATES AND ONE WHICH AFFECTS THE JUST PALESTINIAN CAUSE." YEMENIS, ACCORDING TO BELGIANS, SUGGESTED THAT OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES SHOULD ALSO PROTEST CONFERENCE TO BELGIUM NOTING IT "PREJUDICIAL TO USSR AND SOCIALIST COUNTRIES WHICH SUPPORT THE PALESTINIAN CAUSE."

2. ALGERIAN, SAUDI ARABIAN, EGYPTIAN, SYRIAN AND IRAKI AMBASSADORS MADE JOINT DEMARCHE TO FOREIGN MINISTER VAN ELSLANDE FEBRUARY 2 TO PROTEST HOLDING OF CONFERENCE. IRAKI AMBASSADOR, ACTING AS SPOKESMAN FOR GROUP, EXPLAINED UNHAPPINESS OF THEIR COUNTRIES OVER CONFERENCE WHOSE PURPOSE HE SAID WAS TO ENCOURAGE EMIGRATION OF JEWS TO ISRAEL AND THUS REINFORCE THE CAPABILITIES OF A COUNTRY WITH WHICH THE ARAB COUNTRIES ARE AT WAR.

3. VAN ELSLANDE IN REPLY REPEATED BELGIAN GOVERNMENT POSITION PREVIOUSLY STATED BY FOREIGN MINISTRY PRESS SPOKESMAN AT TIME OF PREVIOUS PROTEST (REFTEL). BELGIAN GOVERNMENT HAD NO PART IN ORGANIZING CONFERENCE AND UNDER BELGIAN CONSTITUTION ANY CONFERENCE WAS PERMITTED AS LONG AS IT DID NOT AFFECT PUBLIC ORDER OR MORALITY. HE FURTHER NOTED THAT CONFERENCE WAS EXCLUSIVELY AIMED AT THE PROBLEMS OF JEWS IN THE USSR AND NOT AT IMMIGRATION TO ISRAEL.

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4. IN RELATED MATTER, COMMUNIST PARTY DAILY, DRAPEAU ROUGE CARRIED COMMENTS OF MOSCOW RABBI YAKOV FISHMAN FEBRUARY 5 THAT CONFERENCE WAS "PROVOCATION" AND "ANTI-SOVIET". ACCORDING TO FISHMAN, CONFERENCE ORGANIZERS WANT TO PRESENT FALSE PICTURE OF THE STATUS OF SOVIET JEWS. HE CONCLUDED, "I HAVE FULL AUTHORITY TO DECLARE THAT JEWISH FAITHFUL IN THE SOVIET UNION

ENJOY FULL LIBERTY OF BELIEF."FIRESTONE

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